



City of Seattle

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Seattle Freight Advisory Board

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The Seattle Freight Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the City in development of a functional and efficient freight system and on all matters related to freight and the impact that actions by the City may have upon the freight environment.

City Council Resolution
31243

Seattle Freight Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: October 18, 2011 / 9:30 a.m.

Location: Seattle City Hall, L280

Members Present: Alon Bassok, Anne Goodchild, Chris Martin, Mike Sheehan, Cameron Williams, and Christine Wolf (representing the Port of Seattle)

Guests Present: Neal Komedal (Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board), Thomas Noyes (WSDOT), Jodie Vice (CleanScapes), Cecelia Gunn and Matt Preedy (both Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program).

City Staff Present: Charles Bookman, Cristina VanValkenburgh, Kristen Simpson, Ron Borowski, Mike Estey (all Seattle Department of Transportation).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Board members, city staff, and other attendees introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the September minutes will be done by e-mail.

4. Chair's Report and Announcements

Anne Goodchild chaired the meeting. She reported that the board sent two letters to the City Council and the mayor, one supporting the proposed container terminal element amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, and one supporting funding for a Freight Master Plan. She is working with the chairs of the pedestrian and bicycle boards on a joint letter supporting funding for modal planning.

5. Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) 2012 Proposed Budget

Charles Bookman, director of SDOT's Traffic Management division, provided information about SDOT's proposed 2012 budget:

- SDOT's proposed 2012 budget is slightly more than \$303 million, which is approximately one percent smaller than the 2011 budget.
- The proposed 2012 budget includes approximately \$6.8 million per year from the \$20 vehicle license fee (VLF) adopted by the City Council earlier this year.
- The proposed 2012 budget does not include funding from the proposed \$60 VLF that will be on the November 8 ballot. If the measure passes, the budget would be revised.

- Funding for a new freight plan, and for an update of the Bicycle Master Plan, is included in the proposed spending plan for the \$60 VLF. (The estimated cost for a freight plan is \$500,000 and the estimated cost to update bicycle plan is \$400,000.) The proposed \$60 VLF would provide approximately \$20 million per year over its 10-year life, and would be split between System Repair, Maintenance and Safety Improvements (29% of the total), Transit Speed, Reliability and Access Improvements (49% of the total), and Pedestrian, Bicycle and Freight Improvements (22% of the total).
- The proposed capital budget includes \$635,000 for the Freight Spot Improvement project. This project funds small-scale improvements to the city's street system to enhance connections to and from the port, railroad intermodal yards, industrial businesses, the regional highways system, and the first and last miles in the supply chain. Project types include turning radius adjustments, channelization changes, left-turn improvements, paving partnership projects, and signage improvements to direct freight to appropriate routes, and to alert drivers to steep grades or sharp turns.
- Other projects in the capital budget that help support freight include:
 - Spokane Street Viaduct Widening and 4th Avenue Off-Ramp (underway, expected completion Spring 2012)
 - Mercer Corridor East (underway, expected completion 2013)
 - Mercer Corridor West (currently planned to start construction in late 2012)
 - Fauntleroy Seismic Retrofit (underway, expected completion early 2012)
 - SR 99 – South Holgate to King Street Viaduct Replacement (underway)
 - Airport over Argo Bridge Rehabilitation (Bridge work will begin after the October Viaduct closure. When complete, the weight restriction will be lifted.)
 - AAC Street Paving - \$14 million in 2012 (N/NW 85th / Greenwood, Ravenna Boulevard)
 - Northgate/105th AAC/TIB (planning to present to SFAB in early 2012)
 - South Park Bridge (Seattle is providing \$15 million)
- While SDOT's overall budget is only down about one percent from 2011, some funding sources are down more significantly, which is reflected in the type of work being planned and in the number of layoffs.

6. SR 99 October Nine-Day Closure

Matt Preedy, Deputy Program Director, Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, presented information about the nine-day closure of the Alaskan Way Viaduct planned for October 21 – 31, 2011. The closure will allow the project's contractor to demolish large sections of the viaduct's southern mile, finish building a new four-lane bypass to connect the viaduct's central waterfront section to the new SR 99 bridge, and build a new southbound SR 99 off-ramp to South Atlantic Street.

WSDOT is working with the city and Metro to keep traffic moving during the closure and to encourage alternatives to driving. Efforts include:

- Uniformed police officers will be stationed at key intersections and additional officers will be available to be deployed to hot spots.
- The low level West Seattle swing bridge will be closed to marine traffic during the p.m. peak, except for deep draft vessels providing 72 hour notice and for emergencies.
- More real-time information will be available, including variable message signs and public access to live feed from 12 of SDOT's traffic cameras (other cameras will continue to offer still photos refreshed every 60 seconds).
- WSDOT will work with the Port of Seattle to predict and address freight congestion at the terminals.

Links:

Information about the nine-day closure:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR99/HolgateToKing/ViaductNineDayClosure.htm#ChangesComing>

Freight detours during the closure:

<http://wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR99/HolgateToKing/PortAccess.htm>

SR 99 – S. Holgate to S King home page:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR99/HolgateToKing/>

Video simulation of driving on the SR 99 construction bypass:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0aaX8s3MME>

7. Traffic Control Manual for In-Street Work

Mike Estey, Parking and Permits manager in SDOT's Traffic Management division, described the purpose of the Traffic Control Manual and the update process for the manual.

The guidance in this manual forms the basis for traffic control plans that are submitted by project proponents and contractors, reviewed and approved by SDOT staff, and implemented on the street. Good traffic control:

- Gives the traveling public clear indication that they are approaching construction that is in or has an impact on the public right of way.
- Gives them clear indication of any changes they need to make or be aware of, such as shifting or merging lanes.
- Indicate any detour routes.
- Addresses the mobility needs of the traveling public so that the construction has the least impact necessary.
- Not only helps keep the traveling public as safe as possible, but also workers at the job site.

The manual is being updated and a draft will be released soon for public comment.

Mike invited the board to provide comments on the draft, and will send a notice when the draft is available for comment.

A copy of the current manual is available here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/trafficcontrolmanual.htm>

8. Board Member Presentation

There was no board member presentation this month.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Seattle City Hall Boards and Commissions Room L280.

Note that there will be no meeting in December. Meetings will resume with the January 17, 2012 meeting.